

COMMUNITY AND HOME OPTIONS TO INSTITUTIONAL CARE FOR THE ELDERLY AND DISABLED (CHOICE)

Board Meeting Minutes
November 19, 2009 – 1:00pm – 2:00pm
Indiana Government Center South, Conference Room A
402 W. Washington St., Indianapolis, IN

CHOICE Board Members in Attendance: Prudence Twigg, Jean Macdonald, Representative Ed Clere, Kay Crawford, John Holmes, Dr. F. Timothy Janis, Dorian Maples, Noble Stallons

CHOICE Board Members Absent: Senator Vaneta Becker, Senator Jean Breaux, Blake Jackson, Pete Emigh, Adrienne Shields

Visitors in Attendance: Lorealee Moore, Tina Boneff, Sean Tienhaara, Justine Currie, Roxsandra Clemons-McFarthing, Jenny Hamilton, Becky Johnson, John Cardwell, Ann Allen, Cindy Wides, Mary Ann Maroon, Rick Maples, Jade Luchauer, Celeste Stinson, Ellen Burton

Call to Order: Chairperson Prudence Twigg called the meeting to order. There was a motion to approve the minutes from the September meeting. The motion was seconded and received unanimous approval from the Board.

Division of Aging Update: Celeste Stinson announced that Adrienne Shields is the new Deputy Director of the Division of Family Resources and is serving as the DFR designee. Nick Petrone, the previous DFR designee, is now the Deputy Director of the Division of Aging.

Celeste provided a handout that included all CHOICE Board meeting dates for 2010.

Celeste addressed a question raised by Representative Clere at the previous meeting regarding the average length of time someone is on the CHOICE waitlist. She provided a handout that detailed the number of clients on the CHOICE waitlist, broken down by length of time and AAA. Representative Clere asked for the same handout in future meetings with an added column showing the change from previous months. Additionally, he would like to know what services clients are currently waiting on.

There were questions about the disparity of the waitlist between the area agencies and Celeste said she would research that information.

There was discussion about the CHOICE Plans submitted by the AAAs. Jade Luchauer said goals in the current CHOICE Plan include issues such as increasing access to congregate meal sites, the Family Caregiver Program, and transportation. In addition, each AAA had to develop agency-specific goals and specify how they would meet those goals.

Celeste stated that for State Fiscal Year 2009, there was about \$2.2 million left in unspent CHOICE funds and it is the Division's wish to reallocate this money back to the AAAs to utilize as service dollars. She stated they are currently awaiting approval for that request. Additionally, there is approximately \$900,000 left in Title III funding and the Division hopes to be able to reallocate those dollars as well. The Board asked for information on unspent funds by AAA and Celeste said she would research that information. Jade Luchauer stated that each AAA used at least 80% of their funding for the State Fiscal Year.

There was a call on the floor to make a resolution to support the reallocation of the leftover funding back to the area agencies for service dollars. It received unanimous approval from the CHOICE Board.

CHOICE Annual Report: Celeste reviewed changes made to the CHOICE Annual Report as a result of recommendations made by Dr. Janis. Per Indiana Code, the final draft of the CHOICE Annual Report will be submitted to the General Assembly after November 15th and before December 31st. After the report has been submitted to the General Assembly, it will be available on the Division of Aging's website.

Old Business: Ellen Burton, Money Follows the Person (MFP) Director, provided an update on the program. Ellen explained that MFP is a federal initiative to help states rebalance their long term care systems. MFP provides additional financial support to transition individuals who have been in a nursing facility for at least six months back into the community. To date, Indiana has transitioned 35 people thus far and is still planning to transition 1,039 people through September 2011. The Division has contracted with Advantage Health Solutions, a locally owned health plan provider, to implement the MFP program. Board member Jean Macdonald stated that despite her initial concern, she has been very pleased with Advantage's involvement in the program. Board member Noble Stallons asked about sustainability of MFP and Ellen responded that long term care savings from the program will be funneled back into home and community based services.

New Business: There was no new business.

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

Adjournment: With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.